

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

PCT

To:

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NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(PCT Rule 71.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year)

05.05.2006

Applicant's or agent's file reference
PU040011

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

International application No.
PCT/US2005/001718

International filing date (day/month/year)
20.01.2005

Priority date (day/month/year)
20.01.2004

Applicant
THOMSON LICENSING S.A.et al

1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority transmits herewith the international preliminary report on patentability and its annexes, if any, established on the international application.
2. A copy of the report and its annexes, if any, is being transmitted to the International Bureau for communication to all the elected Offices.
3. Where required by any of the elected Offices, the International Bureau will prepare an English translation of the report (but not of any annexes) and will transmit such translation to those Offices.
4. **REMINDER**

The applicant must enter the national phase before each elected Office by performing certain acts (filing translations and paying national fees) within 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices) (Article 39(1)) (see also the reminder sent by the International Bureau with Form PCT/IB/301).

Where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary report on patentability. It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned.

For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

The applicant's attention is drawn to Article 33(5), which provides that the criteria of novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability described in Article 33(2) to (4) merely serve the purposes of international preliminary examination and that "any Contracting State may apply additional or different criteria for the purposes of deciding whether, in that State, the claimed inventions is patentable or not" (see also Article 27(5)). Such additional criteria may relate, for example, to exemptions from patentability, requirements for enabling disclosure, clarity and support for the claims.

Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:



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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference PU040011		FOR FURTHER ACTION		See Form PCT/PEA/416
International application No. PCT/US2005/001718		International filing date (day/month/year) 20.01.2005	Priority date (day/month/year) 20.01.2004	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC INV. H04N5/222 G11B27/34				
Applicant THOMSON LICENSING S.A.et al				
<p>1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 7 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:</p> <p>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of 5 sheets, as follows:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) , containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in electronic form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).</p>				
<p>4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the report</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application</p>				
Date of submission of the demand 10.08.2005		Date of completion of this report 05.05.2006		
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465		Authorized officer Brod, R Telephone No. +49 89 2399-8962		



**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT
ON PATENTABILITY**

International application No.
PCT/US2005/001718

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **language**, this report is based on
- ☒ the international application in the language in which it was filed
 - ☐ a translation of the international application into , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
 - ☐ international search (under Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1(b))
 - ☐ publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4(a))
 - ☐ international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2(a) and/or 55.3(a))
2. With regard to the **elements*** of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report):*

Description, Pages

1-6, 8-14	as originally filed
7	received on 17.08.2005 with letter of 10.08.2005

Claims, Numbers

1-17	received on 17.08.2005 with letter of 10.08.2005
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Drawings, Sheets

1-7	as originally filed
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- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing

3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description, pages
 - ☐ the claims, Nos.
 - ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs
 - ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*):
 - ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*):
4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
- ☐ the description, pages
 - ☐ the claims, Nos.
 - ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs
 - ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*):
 - ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*):

* If item 4 applies, some or all of these sheets may be marked "superseded."

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT
ON PATENTABILITY**

International application No.
PCT/US2005/001718

Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

1. The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non-obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:

- ☐ the entire international application,
☒ claims Nos. 3-17

because:

- ☐ the said international application, or the said claims Nos. relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination (*specify*):
- ☐ the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):
- ☐ the claims, or said claims Nos. are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*).
- ☒ no international search report has been established for the said claims Nos. 3-17
- ☐ a meaningful opinion could not be formed without the sequence listing; the applicant did not, within the prescribed time limit:
- ☐ furnish a sequence listing on paper complying with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions, and such listing was not available to the International Preliminary Examining Authority in a form and manner acceptable to it.
- ☐ furnish a sequence listing in electronic form complying with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions, and such listing was not available to the International Preliminary Examining Authority in a form and manner acceptable to it.
- ☐ pay the required late furnishing fee for the furnishing of a sequence listing in response to an invitation under Rules 13ter.1(a) or (b) and 13ter.2.
- ☐ a meaningful opinion could not be formed without the tables related to the sequence listings; the applicant did not, within the prescribed time limit, furnish such tables in electronic form complying with the technical requirements provided for in Annex C-bis of the Administrative Instructions, and such tables were not available to the International Preliminary Examining Authority in a form and manner acceptable to it.
- ☐ the tables related to the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing, if in electronic form only, do not comply with the technical requirements provided for in Annex C-bis of the Administrative Instructions.
- ☒ See separate sheet for further details

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT
ON PATENTABILITY**

International application No.
PCT/US2005/001718

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-2
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-2
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-2
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7):

see separate sheet

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(SEPARATE SHEET)**

International application No.

PCT/US2005/001718

Re Item III

Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

The subject-matter of claims 3 to 17 (teleprompter ect.) has not been searched.

Re Item V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: US2003/0214605 (Snyder)

D2: WO03/014949 (Holtz)

D3: TURNER R R: "1,001 QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE DECIDING ON A NONLINEAR VIDEO EDITINGSYSTEM" SMPTE JOURNAL, SMPTE INC. SCARSDALE, N.Y, US, vol. 103, no. 3, 1 March 1994 (1994-03-01), pages 160-173, XP000445583 ISSN: 0036-1682

D4: US-A-5 864 366 (YEO ET AL) 26 January 1999 (1999-01-26)

D5: US 2003/218696 A1 (BAGGA AMIT ET AL) 27 November 2003 (2003-11-27)

D6: EP-A-0 915 469 (MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC INDUSTRIAL CO., LTD) 12 May 1999 (1999-05-12)

The document D1 is regarded as being the closest prior art to the subject-matter of claim 1. It concerns an auto keying technique for use in an automated production system similar to that described at Pages 2-3 of applicants' specification. As best described at paragraph 0071 of D1, the production system stores one or more configuration parameters to a configuration file, with each parameter specifying attributes of a desired key effect. The parameters can include the identity of the background media source and the fill source for example. Execution of a key parameter serves to route the selected key source to the keyer for so that upon selection of the keyer by a director, the desired scene appears.

The subject-matter of claim 1 differs from this known rundown list in that the memory objects (S-MEMs) of applicants' claimed invention represent intelligent objects that store the state of a particular production device, such that upon execution of the 5-MEM, the production device enters a known static state. The configuration parameters

of Reference D1 do not store the state of a particular piece of production equipment. At best, the configuration parameters described in Paragraph 0071 of D1 specified desired properties of a key effect, but do not themselves cause execution of effects by the keyer. The keyer is selected separately from accession of the configuration parameters, as evidenced by the separate steps of parameter accession during step 109 of FIG. 1 and keyer selection during step 112. (See Paragraph 75 of D1). Indeed, the accession of configuration parameters, by itself in Reference D1 doesn't alter the state of keyer because no keyer is designated to receive such parameters until keyer selection occurs later during step 112. D1, paragraph 124, teaches the use of a show template in the form of a file having a filename for generic electronic rundown, being however bare of any separate S-MEMS.

The subject-matter of claims 1 and 2 is therefore new (Article 33(2) PCT).

The problem to be solved by the present invention may be regarded as providing intelligent objects for the automatization of the show production.

The solution to this problem proposed in claims 1 and 2 of the present application is considered as involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT) for the following reasons:

The invention provides templates for the operation of television production devices, the templates being represented by parametrized state memory objects for producing a show, e.g., a television show, using at least one production device, such as a television camera, a videotape recorder, video switcher and the like having a plurality of states, each state corresponding to an operation executable by that device. Each state of the at least one production device is stored as a state memory object, referred to as an S-MEM, execution of each S-MEM causes an associated production device to execute at least one operation to generate a scene. The S-MEMS undergo parameterization in accordance with the scene each S-MEM generates, thus allowing a director to select those S-MEMS associated with a particular type of scene. In response to selection of a particular S-MEM in accordance with its parameterization, the S-MEM undergoes execution to cause the least one production device to execute the operation associated with that S-MEM to yield the scene of interest.

D2 also does not teach or suggest the features of applicants' invention recited in newly submitted claims 1-17. At best, Reference 132 describes a system and method for

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(SEPARATE SHEET)**

International application No.

PCT/US2005/001718

receiving multimedia Content produced by an automated production system for delivery over the Internet or similar type of data network. A show rundown undergoes execution by an automated video production system to produce a traditional show, in the form of a production file. Concurrently with the execution of the show rundown, a shadow rundown also undergoes execution to produce an electronic show from which segments undergo selection for an on-demand show.

D3 disclose a parametric post production and editing with an EMC storyboard.

D4 discloses shots and collections of frames with anchorpersons for a scene.

D5 discloses grouping together the most often shared scenes with anchor persons of scenes.

D6 discloses parametrized scene editing including post production with fades, wipes etc.

-7-

source material (video, audio, etc.) having a fixed run-time.

However, for a segment that involves live talent, use of an approximate duration is preferred. The approximate duration aids in predicting the run time of the show, but the progression to the subsequent event will always requires manual initiation to accommodate the timing variations that are inherent in the use of live talent.

FIGURE 3 depicts a block schematic diagram of a television production system 300 embodying the present principles for enabling automated production of a television program, such as a television news program. At the heart of the system 300 lies a context-sensitive control panel 302 described in greater detail in FIG. 4, for allowing the director 18 individually to control multiple production devices by the use of S-MEM as discussed above. Such production devices can include one or more video playout devices, such as a server 305 comprising part of an existing Digital News Production System 306. Other devices controlled via the control panel 302 can include one or more television cameras 306, associated camera robotics 308, a character generator 310, and a still store 312 for storing still video images.

Video signals from the cameras 306, the character generator 310, and the still store 312 pass to a video switcher 313 that selectively switches among input signals under the control of the control panel 302. In the illustrated embodiment, the switcher 313 can to perform various digital video effects, obviating the need for a standalone DVE device. However, the system 300 could include one or more separate DVEs (not shown). The switcher 313 provides both a video program output for transmission and/or recording, as well as a preview output for receipt by a preview monitor (not shown). While not illustrated, the video switcher 313 can also receive video from one or more devices, such as videotape recorders, video cartridge machines, and/or satellite receivers, to name but a few.

The control panel 302 also controls an audio mixer 314 that receives audio input signals from a digital cart machine 316 as well as one or more studio microphones 318. Further, the audio mixer 314 can receive input signals from one or more devices, such as the playback server 304, as well as one or more audio tape recorders (not shown) and/or one or more satellite receivers (not shown). The audio mixer 314 provides a program audio output, as well as an intercom output and an output for audio monitoring, by way of a monitor speaker or the like (not shown).

-14-

1 1. A method for controlling at least one television production device, comprising
2 the steps of:

3 (a) establishing a plurality of states of the at least one production device, each state
4 corresponding to at least one operation executable by the device;

5 (b) storing the states of the at least one production device as corresponding memory
6 objects which upon execution cause the one production device to execute the at least one
7 operation, which results in generation of a scene;

8 (c) parameterizing each memory object in accordance with characteristics of the scene
9 that results from execution of that memory object,

10 (d) responsive to selection of at least one memory object selected in accordance with
11 the parameterization thereof, executing each selected memory object to cause execution of
12 corresponding at least one operation by the one television production device to yield at least
13 one scene of interest.

1 2. Apparatus for controlling at least one television production device, comprising
2 the steps of:

3 means for establishing a plurality of states of the at least one production device, each
4 state corresponding to at least one operation executable by the device;

5 means for storing the states of the at least one production device as corresponding
6 memory objects which upon execution cause the one production device to execute the at least
7 one operation, which results in generation of a scene;

8 means for parameterizing each state memory object stored in said storage means in
9 accordance with characteristics of the scene that results from execution of that state memory
10 object,

11 means responsive to selection of at least one state memory object selected in
12 accordance with the parameterization thereof, executing each selected state memory objects to
13 cause execution of corresponding operations by the one television production device to yield
14 at least one scene of interest.

1 3. The method according to claim 1 further comprising the steps of
2 establishing a plurality of states of a plurality of production devices, each state
3 corresponding to at least one operation executable by each device;

-15-

4 storing the states of the plurality of production devices as corresponding memory
5 objects which upon execution cause the respective production devices to execute the at least
6 one operation associated with the memory object which results in generation of a scene;
7 parameterizing each memory object in accordance with characteristics of the scene
8 that results from execution of that memory object,
9 responsive to selection of a set of memory object selected in accordance with the
10 parameterization thereof, executing each selected memory objects in the set to cause
11 execution of corresponding operations by the associated production device to yield at least
12 one scene of interest.

1 4. The method according to claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
2 repeating the steps of (a)-(c) for each of a plurality of scenes; and
3 responsive to selection of at least a set of memory objects selected in accordance with
4 the parameterization thereof, executing the selected memory objects to cause execution of
5 corresponding at least one operation by the one television production device to yield the
6 plurality of scenes.

1 5. The method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of altering said at
2 least one memory object under operator control.

1 6. The method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of executing a
2 plurality of memory objects responsive to selection of selection of different scene appearances
3 by an operator.

1 7. A method for producing a television program via a plurality of production
2 devices connected to a control system, and comprising the steps:

3 (a) pre-producing the program by controlling at least one of the production devices to
4 establish a scene of the program;

5 (b) creating a memory object representing the state the at least one production devices
6 for the at least one scene;

7 (c) repeating steps (a) and (b) to establish a plurality of scenes for the program;

-16-

8 (d) producing the program by recalling the memory objects in a first sequence
9 corresponding to a desired sequence of scenes such that each production devices assumes a
10 state corresponding to the memory object.

1 8. The method according to claim 7 further comprising the step of altering the
2 sequence of memory objects from a first sequence to a second sequence prior to production.

1 9. The method according to claim 8 wherein the altering step is performed
2 manually by an operator.

1 10. The method according to claim 1 wherein each memory object specifies a
2 plurality of states of an associated production device.

1 11. The apparatus according to claim 2 wherein said at least one production device
2 include a video production switcher.

1 12. The apparatus according to claim 2 wherein said at least one production device
2 include a digital video effects device.

1 13. The apparatus according to claim 2 wherein said at least one production device
2 include an audio mixer.

1 14. The apparatus according to claim 2 wherein said at least one production device
2 include a camera robotic controller.

1 15. The apparatus according to claim 2 wherein said at least one production device
2 include a lighting controller.

1 16. The apparatus according to claim 2 wherein said at least one production device
2 include a teleprompter.

-17-

- 1 17. The apparatus according to claim 2 wherein said at least one production device
2 include a character generator.